

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 13108 181119Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 DLOS-09 PM-05 COME-00 DODE-00
INT-05 NSF-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /055 W
-----016053 190804Z /10

R 171912Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9273
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
NAVOCEANO BAY ST LOUIS
NAVOCEANO SUITLAND MD
OCNAV ALEXANDRIA VA
OCEANUNIT FIVE
USNS HARKNESS

UNCLAS CAIRO 13108

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCLR EAID EG IS
SUBJECT: USNS HARKNESS HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY IN GULF OF
- SUEZ

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, US NAVAL SHIP HARKNESS, COASTAL
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY SHIP OPERATED BY THE MILITARY SEALIFT
COMMAND (MSC), HAS ALMOST COMPLETED THE MEDITERRANEAN
END OF ITS HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY OF THE APPROACHES TO THE
SUEZ CANAL. THE SHIP IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO TRANSIT
THE SUEZ CANAL FROM PORT SAID TO SUEZ ON OR ABOUT JUNE 15,
ALTHOUGH THIS DATE IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

2. AFTER IT TRANSITS CANAL, THE USNS HARKNESS WILL
CONDUCT A SIX MONTH HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY OF THE SEPARATION
ZONE ALONG THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE GULF OF SUEZ AND WILL
ALSO SURVEY THE APPROACH TO THE SUMED PIPELINE TERMINAL
AT EIN SOKHNA. THE SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM THE
SHIP AND ITS FOUR LAUNCHES. THE SHIP HAS ABOARD A WHITE
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HELICOPTER USED FOR PROVISIONING AND IS EXPECTED TO MAKE
MANY FLIGHTS BOTH TO THE WESTERN SHORE AND SUEZ PORT.
THE SURVEY TEAM WILL INSTALL APPROXIMATELY A DOZEN NAVAID
SITES ON THE WESTERN SHORE TO MEASURE THE SHIP'S
POSITION DURING THE SURVEY. THE USNS HARKNESS IS ON A
SCHEDULE OF APPROXIMATELY 21 WORK DAYS FOLLOWED BY PORT
CALLS AND WILL TRANSIT THE CANAL SEVERAL TIMES DURING

THIS PERIOD. WHILE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THIS AID-FUNDED SURVEY, WHICH IS BEING UNDERTAKEN AT THE REQUEST OF GOE, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO INFORM GOI OF CURRENT PLAN OF USNS HARKNESS TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING OF ITS PURPOSES AND TO PREVENT UNTOWARD INCIDENTS. SUCH NOTIFICATION TO GOI SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT CARRY ANY SUGGESTION THAT WE ARE ASKING ITS PERMISSION TO CONDUCT THIS SURVEY, WHICH IS IN FACT IN THE INTEREST OF ALL MARITIME NATIONS WHICH USE THE CANAL.

3. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, PLEASE INSTRUCT EMBASSY TEL AVIV ACCORDINGLY. EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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